



COPY

PATENT

#6/A
KD
12-11-02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Michael W. Barry, Jack N. Bartholmae, Francis A. Rowe, E. Neal Tompkins
and Peter A. Zuber

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING TONER LEVEL IN
ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT ENGINES

Assistant Commissioner for
Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with
the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope
addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington,
DC 20231 on

Dear Sir:

(Date of Deposit)
Gregory M. Howison Reg. No. 30,646
(Name of Person Mailing Document)
(Signature)
(Date of Signature)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the initial review, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION

Please delete the present paragraph in its entirety and insert therefor:

A₁ --The present invention pertains in general to electrophotographic print engine systems
and, more particularly, to determining the toner level prior to printing.--

COPY

IN THE CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

Please delete the current statement in its entirety and insert therefore:

A2
--This Application is a Continuation of Serial No. 09/044,539, filed March 19, 1998, titled "METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING TONER LEVEL IN ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC PRINT ENGINES" (Atty. Dkt. No. TRSY-23,859), which is a Continuation-In-Part of U.S. Patent No. 5,859,711 issued January 12, 1999, titled "MULTIPLE PRINT ENGINE WITH VIRTUAL JOB ROUTING" (Atty. Dkt. No. TRSY-23,684), which is a Continuation-in-Part of Serial No. 08/511,641, filed August 7, 1995, titled "VIRTUAL SINGLE PRINTER ENGINE WITH SOFTWARE RIP" (Atty. Dkt. No. TRSY-23,617), which is related to U.S. Patent No. 5,596,416 issued January 21, 1997, titled "MULTIPLE PRINTER MODULE ELECTROPHOTOGRAPHIC PRINTING DEVICE" (Atty. Dkt. No. TRSY-22,391).--

IN THE SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please delete the entire Summary of the Invention in the present application, and insert therefor:

A3
--A method is disclosed for determining the amount of toner required to render a print job using a print engine at a printing location without prior information about the toner level thereof, comprising the steps of accumulating in a first register the toner values of all the pixels in a rasterized image prior to sending the print job to the printing location; decrementing the toner level register for the print engine at the printing location if the accumulated value is less than or equal to the toner level of the print engine; and sending the print job to the print engine at the printing location for rendering.--